

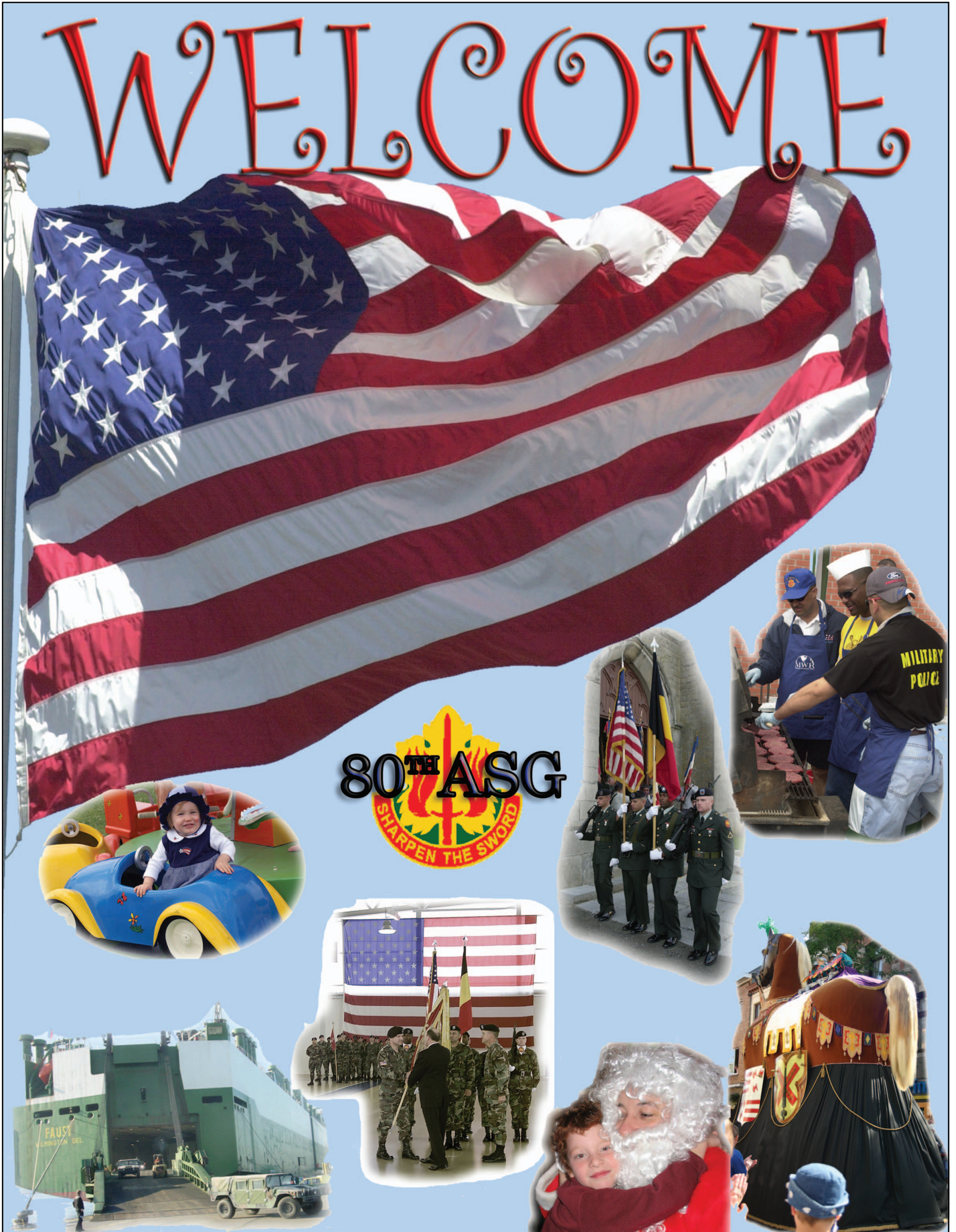
The logo features a black and white photograph of a Benelux Meteor jet aircraft in flight, angled upwards from the left. The word "Benelux" is written in a grey, serif font, positioned above the word "Meteor". The word "Meteor" is written in a large, bold, black serif font, with the "M" being particularly prominent. The aircraft's tail fin is visible behind the "M" in "Meteor".

Benelux Meteor

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Nowowiejski Notes



Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski, 80th ASG Commander

Welcome to the 80th Area Support Group community. We are made up of an integrated team of Soldiers, civilian employees, and family members who support a variety of American communities as part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. You may not know it, but our team relies on a large number of host nation employees both from Belgium and The Netherlands. Without that force of excellence and continuity, our effort to establish an American community of excellence would not succeed. Take the time the next time you see one of the 80th Area Support Group members who are host nation employees and thank them for their efforts.

Among the Area Support Groups in Europe, the 80th is

unique. We are the only ASG working to support NATO, and we serve the widest geographic area: Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, the northern German states, and the United Kingdom. Our three main areas of activity are in support of the NATO headquarters in Brussels (our NATO Support Activity); Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (the ASG headquarters);

and Joint Force Command Brunssum (the 254th Base Support Battalion). All of these geographically dispersed activities form one team and one effort. As I write, I am writing to those in this community whom we serve: any American military or civilian person or family member working at these NATO headquarters.

I ask that, as the fall season approaches, and we settle into a new school year after the summer rotations, you take the time to make sure you are ready for the year ahead. Your time working in the BENELUX will not be as enjoyable or rewarding if you don't know how to be at home in your host nation, or take advantage of the many activities we have planned for you. Have

you attended a Newcomer's Orientation? These are offered in the SHAPE/Chièvres area every second Thursday of the month. The point of contact is Veronique Hensgens at DSN 423-4332. In The Netherlands, Newcomer's Orientation Briefings also include a tour and are held every last Friday of the month. The point of contact is Calvin Farlow at DSN 360-7512. Newcomer's Orientations are for your safety and enjoyment. You are not ready for the year ahead if you have missed one. You might also want to consider Learning About Belgium classes which are given eight times a year, with the next upcoming class on Oct. 11, 12 and 14. The point of contact is Laurie A. Bach at DSN 423-4269.

As you finish settling in, I ask that you pay attention to the information we offer. Please check the 80th Area Support Group web site at: <http://www.80asg.army.mil>. We will be upgrading and improving this site over the next several months, but it already offers community activity and newcomer information. Finally, might I suggest you learn something more about the NATO headquarters you support. These web sites are frankly amazing in their quality and level of information. If you work in Brussels, please check: <http://www.nato.int>. If you work at SHAPE/Chièvres/Daumerie please see: <http://www.nato.int/shape>. If you work at Schinnen, please see: <http://www.afnorth.nato.int>.

You might be surprised to learn that the NATO command you support is up to something entirely new or different from what you thought. Do you know what NATO command is charged with the Afghanistan Presidential elections in October? You might be surprised to discover that this important world event is being led by one of the NATO headquarters we support. The answer is the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul under the leadership of JFC Brunssum.

Two significant events will shortly pass us by. They are the 60th Anniversary of the liberation of Belgium and The Netherlands. The Public Affairs Offices of the 80th ASG and the 254th BSB have details on local events. When the month of September is over, this opportunity will have gone by forever. The second opportunity is the upcoming national election. Many of you are from the swing states which will probably determine the next President of the United States. The 2000 election demonstrated clearly that every vote counts. Please take the few simple steps with your Federal Absentee Ballot request to honor those Soldiers defending your right to vote in Afghanistan, Iraq, and around the world. Military votes will count in November, and may determine the election.

Thank you for what you do everyday to defend liberty and preserve our way of life. It matters.

In-processing Info

The Central Processing Facility (CPF), Bldg 253, on SHAPE, is the central service provider for all in and out-processing.

If you are in-processing, you will come to the CPF for your in-processing checklist:

Having been installed in temporary quarters, your number one concern as a newcomer is to get SHAPE ID cards for yourself and your family members – the SHAPE ID card is the key to entry to SHAPE and US and international services found there.

The CPF staff arranges for issue of SHAPE ID cards and ensures your US ID cards are updated.

Your number two concern as a newcomer is quarters – if you are authorized US Government quarters, you will begin that in-processing at the CPF. If you are not authorized government quarters, you will begin your quarters search through the services of SHAPE's International Housing Branch, located just across the street from the CPF.

Your number three concern, if you have school-age children, will be enrollment in school, which is done at the American High School and American Elementary School, on SHAPE.

Your number four concern will be furniture and vehicle. The US housing representative at the CPF will advise you regarding temporary government furniture issue.

The CPF also provides a wide variety of services to assist you: passports and birth registrations; US and SHAPE identity cards; installation accesses; and assistance with administration arrangements – principally tax exemption – that may arise in the Belgian community where your reside. You can reach the CPF at DSN 366-6238 or civilian 065-32-6238.

This fall don't let the beets beat you

BRUGELETTE, Belgium – On any given day for the next three months, slow-moving trucks loaded to the trailer top with sugar beets make their way to eight processing plants in Belgium, particularly in the local area of Brugelette, near Chièvres. It is the first step in turning the lowly sugar beet into a refined product for the seemingly insatiable sweet tooth of the world.

Sugar beets are a major agriculture business in Belgium. The crop is carefully tended and harvested in the late fall when the sugar content is the highest. This year the "Sugar Beet" season will start at mid-September and will probably last until Christmas.

This means that a lot of tractors and trailers full of sugar beets will be on the road, heading to the Brugelette sugar beet factory.

These vehicles track mud and drop beets on the road, which creates hazardous slippery conditions. They also move very slowly and are poorly lighted, which adds to the hazard of driving. These dangerous elements, combined with shorter daylight and inclement weather, represent a greater risk and accident potential.

"There is also the problem of

dead leaves which, when wet, create a slippery combination and a resulting lack of traction when one has to stop suddenly". "The only sensible and proven defense against these hazards is application of the simple rules of defensive driving" said Rudy Magain, 80th ASG Safety Manager.

Extra caution is therefore required in order to avoid unnecessary accidents. Beyond the normal precautions and rules (use of seatbelts, no drug or alcohol behind the wheel, no use of cell phone, adjusted speed) which are applicable throughout the year, the following recommendations

should also be taken into account during this period:

- Watch out for those tractors and trailers, which are often poorly lighted (lack of visibility), and travel at low speed.
- Reduce speed and keep sufficient room between your car and the trailers (sugar beets can fall off

from the trailers).

- Be aware of road conditions (tractors and trailers track mud on the roads, which become slippery).

- This is a good time to practice patience. Don't take unnecessary risks when trying to pass other vehicles.

- Be aware of weather conditions (early morning fog, rain, frost, etc...).

- At night, the most important factors are full attention and control.



In Schinnen there will also be more traffic with the trucks and tractors bringing the sugar beets and apples to and from the stroopfabriek Canisius (syrup factory). This factory is located at the beginning of the Borgerweg that leads to the 254th Base Operations (BSB) installations. Pay extra attention on these big trucks and tractors as some of these vehicles come straight from the lands and can loose mud on the roads. They may also be poorly lighted.

Always drive safely and defensively. Your safety point of contact at the 254th BSB is Frank Castermans at DSN 360-7270.

Teenagers trade school for work during the summer

By Jessica Hurdlow

What does summer make you think of? Do you think of swimming, camping, and being with friends?

While you may think of having fun in the sun, a group of youths have other plans for their summer; work.

Summer-hire is a program for family member youths to work at various places on U.S. military installations in Belgium and The Netherlands. These youths range from 14 to 21 years of age.

Just what do they have to say about their new summer jobs?

Summer hire Brian Hurdlow is a clerical worker. He works on Caserne Daumerie and does various assignments such as computer work, answering phones, and shredding paper. "I enjoy the summer hire program, I feel it's a new learning experience," Brian said.

Even though some summer hires are lucky enough to be

in an office all day, there are others who do other work.

Jasmine Jackson for instance is a summer hire laborer. She and others go outside and mow lawns, pick up trash, shovel, and clean basements.

"Sometimes it's hard and hot outside which makes it more strenuous to complete the task I was assigned to do," Jasmine said.

But it all pays off in the end with a paycheck from Uncle Sam.

What are they going to do with their hard earned money?

Kyle Geesaman and Madison Godfrey are going to spend their money on themselves. "It's good to indulge every once in a while, I deserve it," Kyle said.



Jessica Hurdlow

Even though the summer hire program does eat up some of the workers summer, it really doesn't bother them.

"I get to know what it's like to work in the real world. Who knows when I will get an opportunity like this again," Madison said.

Summer is coming close to ending and work time is over.

"Would you work summer hire again?" I ask.

"Yeah, anything's better than my first job which was picking up trash on the side of the road," Brian chuckled.

Note: Teenagers can apply for summer hire jobs starting at the age of 14. Jobs range from clerical work to labor work with locations at SHAPE, Chièvres Air Base, Caserne Daumerie Chièvres, NSA, Brussels in Belgium or Schinnen in The Netherlands. For information regarding next year's summer hire program, contact the CPAC office at Chièvres, DSN 361-5255 or the CPAC Liaison office at Schinnen, DSN 360-7305.

SHAPE Village trash

Recently there has been another demand on SHAPE Village Residents to pay the City of Mons Garbage Tax (Taxes Communales sur les Immondices). Despite all the steps taken by SHAPE since August 2002, no action has been taken on behalf of the City of Mons to stop SHAPE Village residents receiving such reminders. SHAPE's position is that because SHAPE Village residents pay SHAPE Domaines directly for garbage collection, the City of Mons tax should not be paid. Action is in hand to meet the Mayor of Mons to rectify once and for all this unfortunate situation. The SHAPE Legal Office advises SHAPE Village residents not to pay the Taxes Communales sur les Immondices - City of Mons. SHAPE Village residents, however, have to continue to pay SHAPE Domaines for garbage collection. This only affects residents of SHAPE Village; all personnel living outside SHAPE have to pay subject tax.

For information, please contact Michèle Vrydag at DSN 423-5208.

Belgium is not a tax haven

Whether you live in the states or in Belgium, you have to face taxes. In Belgium, there are two different types of taxes you will have to deal with, regardless if you live on the economy or in government quarters.

Each year between February and May, every adult who possesses a Belgian ID card receives a personal income tax package through the Belgian post. In case of a military family, this means that the infamous "brown envelope" Belgian residents hate to receive is mailed to the service member's spouse.

U.S. residents in Belgium do not have to



pay Belgian income taxes but to avoid any fines, you have to take the envelope coming from the "Ministère des Finances" (Belgian Ministry of Finance) to the U.S. Central Processing Facility (CPF) building 253 at SHAPE. The staff will prepare a certificate exempting you from taxes and all you will need to do is mail this back to the Ministry of Finance.

The other type of tax for those living on the economy is the garbage tax. Each Belgian commune has an annual tax for gar-

bage collection for the previous year.

Normally, the tax is levied in the spring and you have 30 days to pay it.

How long you have lived at the address has nothing to do with your liability for paying. The bad news is you might just have moved in and have to pay for last year, but the good news is you will probably move out before you receive the bill for your last year at your current residence.

The key word to remember here is "IMMONDICE" (trash) in any official correspondence you receive through the Belgian post. It will include a bank transfer slip you can fill out and take to the bank or post office.

If you live in government quarters, you will also receive a bill. All you need to do is bring it to the housing work center in the CPF who will take care of it for you.

U.S. Army NATO changed command

Command of U.S. Army NATO changed Aug. 10 as Col. Steve Poet relinquished command to Col. Barry Swain in a ceremony on SHAPE.

Swain comes to SHAPE from Fort McPherson, Ga. where he was Adjutant General for U.S. Army Forces Command.

Swain, a native of Atkins, Ark., received his commission in May 1978 as an ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate at Arkansas Tech Univ. He entered active duty in 1980 and was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Div., Fort Hood, Texas, serving as the

recreation services officer and enlisted personnel management officer for the division. He has served in numerous staff and command assignments.

Swain's military education includes the Adjutant General Basic and Advanced Courses, Army Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in his-



Photo by Cpl Chris Weissenborn

tory and political science from Arkansas Tech Univ., a masters of public administration from Troy State Univ., and a masters degree in national security strategy from the Army War College.

Poet was commander, Troop Brigade/Chief of Staff, United States Army NATO, since July 2001. He took command of Headquarters Support Group, SHAPE on Aug. 19.

Proper identification will get you proper access

Although we often count on drivers licenses for identification in the United States, throughout Europe it is mandatory to carry a national identity card.

U.S. servicemembers are not issued Belgian ID cards because, technically, "they are not here," or are just "passing through." Under the provisions of the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) they are not accounted for by the Belgian government. However, the Belgian government sees the civilian dependents of soldiers and the civilian members of the force and their families as "residents." They are residents under a special status, but residents nonetheless. When you in-process, all family members 12 years and older will be registered with their village or town authorities and will receive a special Belgian identity card. It is important to safeguard these cards as you will have to return it to the Belgian authorities when you leave the



country.

While assigned in Belgium, DA civilian dependents and contractors will be issued a tan dependent ID card which is over-stamped "OVERSEAS ONLY." The reason that the card is over-stamped has to do with the provisions of the SOFA as it concerns tax-free shopping in Belgium by members of the U.S. Forces.

In general, under the SOFA between the United States and Belgium, only those assigned to permanent duty in Belgium may benefit from tax free shopping in the PX and commissary. Just be sure that if you are a dependent, you have an over-stamped tan ID card that is valid.

The Common Access Card, usually called the "CAC card", is the new US Forces identity card. It is issued to all active duty, reserve, and National Guard personnel and to all civilian members of the Department of Defense. Dependents do not receive CACs.

Active duty personnel should change their old ID cards for CACs immediately. There are situations where you will be denied access to certain facilities and services if you do not have a CAC.

CACs are issued by the U.S. Central Processing Facility on SHAPE normally by appointment. Contact the CPF at DSN 366-6293 or civilian 065-326293 for further information.

In case of emergency leave, those without a current passport can be blocked from returning to the United States. In case of

emergency evacuation from Belgium, there could be problems, and you might loose an opportunity to go on some specific travel trips.

Heads of families should know the expiration dates of all passports and apply for renewals 90 days prior to their expiration. Parents should request passports for new born children within 30 days of the child's birth.

Temporary access to Chièvres Air Base is also possible for visitors. For information, call the Chièvres military police station at DSN 361-5433 or civilian 068-275433.

Emergency Numbers in the SHAPE/Chièvres area		
Organization	Military Number	Civilian Number
80 th ASG MP Desk Sergeant	361-5301	068-27-5301
International Emergency	112	112 (also from cellular phone)
Belgian Police Emergency	101	101
Belgian Police at SHAPE	423-3334	065-44-3334
Fire Emergency (off-post)	100 (French)	065-44-3334/3333 (English)
U.S. Fire Department (on-post)		
a. Chièvres installation	117	068-27-5117
b. SHAPE	423-4017	065-44-4017
Ambulance	100 (French)	065-44-3334/3333 (English)
SHAPE Health Clinic Appts	423-5886	065-44-5886
Army Red Cross	423-4008	065-44-4008
Headhunters Taxi Ath		068/283008
Headhunters Taxi Mons		065/319808

NSA welcomes you to the heart of Europe

On behalf of the NATO Support Activity (NSA) Team and the 2,300 Americans that live and work in the U.S. Tri-Missions, I would like to extend our warmest welcome to you and your family to the Brussels American Community.

I also wish to congratulate you on winning your respective assignment LOTTOs. Perhaps you are unaware of this yet but you have absolutely won the jackpot. It is not by chance that Brussels serves as the capital city and the center of gravity of the European Union and host to the Headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. You will discover Brussels is an exciting, professionally rewarding, and enjoyable tour. You will find yourself with exceptional opportunities to stretch your horizons in one of the most international cities in the world and a chance to get to know a gracious friendly host nation and its people who offer cultural diversity, a long rich history, and family friendliness

that is sure to bring enrichment to your life's experiences.

I encourage you to live large and make the best of your Brussels experience and really explore and get to know this extraordinary city and its people. Newcomers are generally pleasantly surprised to discover one of the world's greenest capitals, to find the city on a human scale with easily navigable distances. Assignment to Brussels is a day-tripper's delight. Within one day's travel you are within reach of the capitals of five European countries providing tremendous opportunities to discover geographic, ethnic, linguistic, political, historical, culinary, and religious differences and diversities. There are great opportu-



Lt. Col. Jon Davis, NSA Commander

nities for antique shopping, fine dining, and for sampling world famous Belgian chocolates, Belgian frites, and of course, the great beer.

Brussels is also the home for numerous museums and concert halls so that a variety of cultural activities and events await you. Open-air markets and folklore festivals add their own special color to life here, while outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy kayaking and cycling not far in the Belgian Ardennes forest.

The Brussels American Community is small but it offers a very extensive range of services and a good link to supplementary services on the local economy. The infrastructure offered by the city of Brussels and the international

feel, will help you feel at home very quickly. Most people speak English so you will not feel isolated in your civilian community. Although you will not find a traditional overseas installation housing area or a little "America" neighborhood, we still enjoy a special small town USA community spirit and atmosphere which offers many programs, volunteering opportunities, and American community activities.

Again I would like to extend a special welcome to you and yours. We look forward to your integration into our home away from home and your participation in the numerous programs and events offered throughout the Brussels American Community each year. We wish you and your family a safe and enriching stay here in Brussels filled only with good health, happiness, and prosperity.

**Lt. Col. Jon Davis
and Team NSA**

NSA in a nutshell

The U.S. government community, which includes NATO Support Activity (NSA), is referred to as the "Tri-Missions". It includes the U.S. diplomatic mission to NATO (USNATO), the bilateral mission to Belgium (the U.S. Embassy) and the U.S. Mission to the European Union (USEU). Each mission has its own ambassador. The Joint Administrative Services (JAS), located near the Embassy, provides administrative support to the three U.S. diplomatic missions to include all federal agencies associated with these missions.

NSA was originally activated to carry out the U.S. Army Support Mission in the Brussels area in August of 1967 at the same time NATO and SHAPE began to function in Belgium. NSA's mission is to provide administrative and logistical support to U.S. personnel assigned to NATO and to U.S. agencies and personnel located in Brussels and to coordinate additional missions and functions assigned by the Commander of the 80th ASG. NSA has seen astounding growth and changes since 1967 and is a vital part of the lifestyle we have come to enjoy in Brussels.

The support and services NSA has to offer include: transportation department (household goods), housing referral and assistance, official and leisure travel, Army Community Service (ACS), bachelor enlisted quarters, youth services, community activity center,

education center, auto craft shop, multi-craft shop, library, motorpool, community lounge, chaplain's programs and religious services, food court, Shoppette (video arcade, Bookmark, video rentals), barber, thrift shop, Air Postal Office (APO), check cashing and currency conversion, credit union and ATM, fitness center and health and dental clinic.

Must dos for newcomers to help get acquainted with Brussels and learn practical information:

- Newcomers' Briefings and orientation (offered by ACS and the CLO)
- Metro Madness
- Driving Course and Orientation
- Outdoor Recreation trips.

There is a shuttle service that runs throughout the day between the U.S. Embassy, NATO, NSA and the Warehouse.

Be sure to visit the Brussels Community website at www.brussels.army.mil. You'll find the community operating hours, calendar of events, useful links and loads of information about the community. You'll also want to be sure to ask ACS for a copy of the XYZ Travel Guide, which contains maps to popular shopping spots and destinations.

Some other great sources of information are the Brussels Weekly (published every Friday by the U.S. Tri-Missions) and The Bulletin (published Thursdays and available at Press Shops).

Public transport easy and cheap

Brussels - Driving in some areas of Brussels can be not only tricky but also stressful. The Brussels public transportation network is a very reliable, economical and virtually stress-free driving alternative, covering approximately 430 km. The metro (subway) alone covers 40.5 km and is expanding. The metro is directly linked to the railway stations.

The tramway network is made up of about 15 lines, which travel outside or in tunnels. These stations are not only an efficient way of getting around Brussels, but are also permanent museums with most of them having been decorated by contemporary artists.

Approximately 500 buses also travel the streets of Brussels. The metro, trams and buses run from 5 a.m. until midnight, so if you are planning on having a late night then you have to rely on a taxi or on the first bus, tram or metro around 5 a.m. Trams, buses and two metro lines (underground) interconnect most parts of the city.

A single ticket for a journey on the public transport costs 1.40 Euro, five voyages 6.30 Euro and a ten voyage ticket is 9.20 Euro.



Trams are fun and easy to use

You can get off a bus for example and then take a tram without having to buy a new ticket. However you have to put the ticket in the machine to validate it again! Your ticket is valid for an hour.

If you are going to be traveling within Brussels several times during the day you should consider buying a one day travel card. It costs 3.70 Euro with the added advantage that on weekends, your ticket is good for two passengers.

You can buy transport tickets in advance on the Eurostar, in most hotels, newsagents, in trams, buses and metro stations and in automatic machines.

Ready for a language lesson?

ENGLISH

Hello or Good day
Good evening
Goodbye
How are you?

Fine
Sir or Mr.
Madam or Mrs.
Miss
Please
Thank you
You're welcome
Excuse me
Yes
No
I understand
Do you understand?

Speak slowly, please

Repeat, please

What is your name?
My name is
Where is...?
The restaurant

FRENCH PRONUNCIATION

bawn-JOOR
bawn-SWAR
ah-ray-VOAH
kaw-MAHN-t+ah-
-lay VOO?

bee-n
muss-YUH
ma-DAHM
mad-mwa-ZEL
SEEL voo PLAY
mayr-SEE
JUH voo un pree
ek-skew-zay MWA
WEE
NAWNG
JUH kawm-PRAHNG
KAWM-
-pruh-nay VOO?

par-lay LAHNT-
-mahng, seel voo-
-PLAY

RAY-pay-tay, seel-
-voo PLAY

kaw-MAHNG voo-
-z+ah-puh-lay VOO?
juh-ma-PEL
oo AY...?
luh RESS-to-RAHNG

FRENCH SPELLING

Bonjour
Bonsoir
Au revoir
Comment allez-vous?

Bien
Monsieur
Madame
Mademoiselle
S'il vous plaît
Merci
Je vous en prie
Excusez-moi
Oui
Non
Je comprends
Comprenez-vous?

Parlez lentement, s'il vous plaît

Répétez, s'il vous plaît

Comment vous appelez-vous?
Je m'appelle
Où est...?
Le restaurant

ENGLISH

Hello or Good day
Good morning
Good evening
Goodbye
How are you?

Fine
Sir or Mr.
Madam or Mrs.
Miss
Please
Thank you
You're welcome
Excuse me
Yes
No
I understand
Do you understand?
Speak slowly, please

Repeat, please

What is your name?
My name is
Where is...?
The restaurant

DUTCH PRONUNCIATION

hoo dun DAHK
hoo-dun MAWR-hun
hoo-dun AA-vawnt
tawt ZEENSS
hoo HAAT ut met EW?
hoot
mu-NAYR
muv-ROU
yuf-ROU
ahss-tew-BLEEF
DAHNK ew
tawt ow DEENST
ek-skew-ZAHR mahy
YAA
NAY
ik vur-STAA ut
vur-STAA ut ew ut?
SPRAYKT ew LAHNK
--zaam, ahss-tew BLEEF
WILT ew ut hur-HAA-
-lun, ahss-tew BLEEF
WAT es EW NAM?
MUN name s
WAARISS...?
un RESS-to-rahnt

DUTCH SPELLING

Goedendag
Goedemorgen
Goedenavond
Tot ziens
Hoe gaat het met U?
Goed
Mijnheer
Mevrouw
Juffrouw
Alstublieft
Dank U
Tot Uw dienst
Excuseer mij
Ja
Neen
Ik versta het
Verstaat U het?
Spreekt U langzaam, alstublieft
Wilt U het herhalen, alstublieft?
Wat is uw naam?
Mijn naam is
Waar is...?
Een restaurant

Welcome to the 254th BSB



Welcome to the greatest place in the Army in Europe. We at the 254th Base Support Battalion located at Schinnen, The Netherlands, have a challenging and relevant mission supporting real world Army, Joint, and NATO operations. Our Dutch, German, and Belgian hosts are great friends and important partners in NATO. In addition, there is no better place than the Tri-Border Community to raise children and participate in a variety of diverse recre-

ational activities.

There is more to this place than meets the eye. Looking at Schinnen is like looking at the top of an iceberg. Unseen is a larger, more complex web of other U.S. Army units, Air Force, NATO, and other governmental agencies working together toward a common mission of supporting our Nation and NATO at war.

Serving overseas is a unique experience. Even though not "downrange," our work here is critical to supporting the Global War on Terrorism.

Our mission directly supports those getting ready to deploy, already deployed, and returning from deployment. A key aspect of service overseas is that we are all "ambassadors" for the United States of America. What I mean by this is that every time a United States citizen overseas is seen or heard by a European citizen, they are representing the United States and shaping the perception of United States values, ethics, and beliefs.

Don't miss to check out the valuable inprocessing information hereunder as well as the calendar of events and general information on The Netherlands on pages



Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson

seven and eight of this paper.

I wish all newcomers to our community a most enjoyable stay in this wonderful country of The Netherlands.

Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson
254th BSB Commander

Emergency Numbers in the Schinnen area

Organization

254th MP Desk Sergeant: civ 046-443 7555
254th MP Desk Sergeant: DSN 360-7555
AFNORTH MP Desk: civ 045-5262616
Dutch Police Emergency: 112
Ambulance: 112
Fire Emergency: 112
Army Red Cross: civ (32)65-444008 or DSN 361-4008
NOTE: The Army Red Cross is located at SHAPE, Belgium
Geilenkirchen Medical Appts: civ (49)2451993200
254th Schinnen Operator: DSN 360-1110 or civ 046-443 7199
AFNORTH Brunssum Operator: DSN 364-2222 or civ 045-526 2222
Geilenkirchen Operator: civ (49)245 1631
Casualty Assistance Manager: DSN 360-7320

Other useful phone numbers

PAO: 360-1600
ACS: 360-7500
Central Processing Facility: 360-7334

All you need to know about your assignment to the 254th BSB

The 254th Base Support Battalion, Schinnen, and Allied Forces North are located in the Province of Limburg, the most picturesque part of The Netherlands. Maastricht, the capital of the province, is also one of the oldest towns in Holland, dating

back to the third century.

The Netherlands is one of the smallest kingdoms in the world. With only 14,000 square miles, it has a population of 15 million people — over 1,000 people per square mile in comparison to the U.S. where you'll find about 20

people per square mile. It's normal to have farmland in towns and villages here because the population is expanding the parameters of the towns.

The first stopping place for



Part of the old city wall in Maastricht

back to the third century. The town has a huge number of ancient buildings, churches, squares or plazas, and museums.

The "Lindenburgers" have their own special dialect that has developed over the centuries from a mixture of French, German and Dutch. The language can hardly be called a dialect, but more like a separate language because it has its own grammar and

its own dictionary. The majority of the people here speak English but are flattered by any attempt

visitors or newcomers to the community is at the Welcome Center located on the Schinnen installa-

tion. Maps and information brochures are available, as well as information on family support. The Relocation Assistance Manager can help you at the Welcome Center, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

In processing stations include security clearance verification, personnel, finance, medical records screening and updating, vehicle registration and transportation. Service members and civilians are required to report to the DPW Housing Referral Office on Schinnen while in processing. All soldiers are required to contact housing prior to making any housing commitments. When quarters are not available, housing assists in finding homes on the economy and also helps resolve tenant-landlord complaints. They also provide support to civilian employees.

Anyone entering the military installations or using facilities must have a valid identification card. Both U.S. and NATO ID cards are required and issued at Allied Forces North in Brunssum. Your sponsor or unit should supply you with an application form for the NATO ID card. The facility is located at the AFNorth Main Gate. To get a U.S. ID card, report to Building 603 on AFNorth. Call 045-526-2216 for more information.

If you plan on driving, you'll need to take a Netherlands driver's test. You can pick up a book to study and make an appointment for your test at the same time. The Drivers Testing Office is a component of the 254th Base Support Battalion.

As anywhere else in the world, driving in the Netherlands requires care. Some rules of the road are unique to this country, however, particularly those relating to bicycles, mopeds and pedestrians.

Many soldiers with families and civilians live on the economy and need to pay rent and utilities in Euro. The Dutch do not use checking accounts, but there are a variety of means available to transfer dollars to Euro and get your bills paid. Many use Dutch Post Banks, normally found inside a large grocery store in the center of town. The Post Banks are ideal for paying bills — you simply fill out your account number on all your bills and it's deducted from your account.

Many people also get an account at an American bank on post and are allowed one allotment drawn from it to pay their monthly rent. This means depositing money in at least two accounts here — and balancing them both! Teller machines on post allow withdrawals of dollars and euro.

The Education Center offers a wide variety of services including counseling, testing, learning resource, language classes, Headstart, college programs, graduate programs, MOS skill-related classes, and high school completion/GED programs. The University of Maryland and City Colleges of Chicago are available for associates and bachelors de-

grees. Boston University offers a Master of Science in Business Administration program and Southern California offers a Master of Science in System Management program.

There is a Post Exchange and P-Xtra at Schinnen, a NATO Exchange in Brunsum (10 minutes away), and another exchange at Geilenkirchen, Germany (20 minutes away). All three locations also have shoppettes, beauty and barber shops, and specialty shops.



Windmills abound in Holland

Shopping opportunities abound on the economy or at post exchanges in all three countries. Germany is 15 minutes away and Belgium is about 20 minutes away.

You'll be able to get good bargains most everywhere, especially in furniture, glassware, pottery and leather goods. For the big PX in the sky, contact AAFES online at <http://www.aafes.com>.



World famous Dutch tulips can be seen all over The Netherlands

Brussels Community Calendar

Retirees Association - The annual Retiree Appreciation Day will be held on Sept. 18 for all Benelux US military retirees from 9:30 a.m.-noon at the Three-Star Lounge, at NSA in Brussels. After free continental breakfast, speakers include the new 80th ASG Commander, the Veterans Administration and US Embassy federal benefits advisor. At 12:30 pm, the Association of Retired Members of the (US) Armed Forces in Belgium (ARMAF-B) is hosting a lunch for members and prospective members at the Twins Brasserie at 1105 Chaussée de Louvain (walking distance from NSA). Info for Retiree Appreciation Day: 065 44-4575. Reservations for lunch: 010 81-0345.

Community Chorus - The Brussels American Community will perform at several events in the American community and in Brussels. Adults and teens of all nationalities are welcome. Men are especially needed, even if they must miss some practices. Rehearsals are every Monday night, beginning Sept. 13, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the parish hall of St. Anthony's Church, 23-25 Oudstrijderslaan, Kraainem. Contact Carol at Lamdm@attglobal.net or at 02 757-0621

NSA Newcomers' Briefing - On Oct. 19 from 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at NSA Building 3, Command Conference Room, key agencies will present a brief overview of their programs and answer your questions. On Oct. 20 from 9:30 a.m. to noon, the NATO Health Clinic patient liaison coordinator will provide a tour of the Leuven Gasthuisberg Hospital (meeting point is ACS, NSA Building 4 at 9:25 a.m.) and ACS will give you general information about Belgium. On Oct. 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., the director of the Delhaize in Kraainem will familiarize you with a local food store. Info: 02 717-9783 or 7179693.

Army Community Services is hiring non-personal service contractors for the following positions: *Weekend Metro Madness Instructor* (part-time), *Family Violence Prevention Education Specialist* (part-time), *Wellness Education Specialist* (part-time) and *Central Intake/I&R Specialist* (full time). Closing dates for applications is Sept. 20. Info: Jean-Luc Clarembeau at 02 717-9735. Job vacancies are posted next to the ACS Employment Readiness manager's Office, Room 326, the top floor of Bldg 4.

The Three-Star Lounge is open Thursday, from 7 p.m. to midnight, Friday, from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m., and Saturday, from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. to all Tri-Mission ID cardholders and accompanied guests 18 years and older. *Movie Nights* are moved to Thursdays, starting Sept. 9. starting at 7 p.m. No Movie Night on Sept. 16. *Karaoke Night* on Sept. 24. *Dart Night* on Sept. 25. *Latino DOD Show* on Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. Info: Lisa at 02 717-9639 or Janet at 02 717-9732.

Fall Festival NSA is hosting the 7th Annual Autumn Special Event for the Brussels American

Community on Oct. 29 from 3:30 to 6 p.m. at Child & Youth Services. The theme this year will be *A Trip Around the World*. Info: 02 717-9639

Outdoor Recreation - Canterbury Cathedral, Sept. 25, \$45 adults, \$39 children under 12 years of age; Amsterdam, Oct. 2, \$40 adults, \$33 children under 12 years of age; Antwerp, Oct. 9, \$40 adults, \$33 children. Info: Leon Dillien at 02 717-9775 or 0474 68 35 44.

Brussels Community Information Fair, Sept. 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., NSA. With over 100 organizations participating, the Information Fair is an invaluable one-stop opportunity for community members to learn about clubs, organizations, communes, churches, youth activities and other resources. Info: ACS, 02 717-9783 or CLO, 02 508-2289.

Community Town Hall Meeting, Sept. 30, 6 p.m., NSA Community Conference Room, Building 2. Receive the latest community news and information and voice your ideas and concerns in the Open Forum. If you have issues you would like addressed at the meeting, email Community.Coordinator@usdelmc.army.mil.

Army Community Services - Metro Madness class Sept. 15, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and Sept. 25, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Toddler Play Group every Tuesday 10:00 a.m.-noon, CYS multi-purpose room; prenatal classes available on request, call 02 717-9684; National School Lunch program offers free or reduced priced lunches to eligible families, call 02 717-9698 for info; for sponsorship training, call the ACS Relocation Readiness Program Manager at 02 717-9729. Info/sign up: 02 717-9783

NSA Job Opportunities Bar Assistant, NA-7405-2 (flex), open continuous position, announcement number NAF-CHI-OC05; part time Recreation Specialist (youth activities), BA-0188-05/07, Host Nation announcement BEL-HN-04-053 under LN employment section. Full position descriptions are at the NAF employment section, www.chrma.hqusareur.army.mil. Info: Jean-Luc Clarembeau, 02 717-9735 or jean-luc.clarembeau@benelux.army.mil.

NSA Chapel Protestant Worship, Sundays, 10:45 a.m.; Gospel Service, Sundays, 12:30 p.m.; Gospel Sunday School, 11 a.m., NSA Conference Room; Sunday School for all ages every Sunday starting Sept. 12, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Men of the Chapel meet the first Saturday each month beginning Sept. 11, 9 a.m., NSA Chapel; Protestant Women of the Chapel study, Thursdays, 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall; Protestant Women of the Chapel Fall Rally, Sept. 25, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., NSA Chapel. Info: 02 717-9708.

Multi-Craft Center Open Wednesday-Thursday 2-9 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday-Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; framing classes Thursdays, 2-6 p.m., \$30; jewelry making Wednesdays,

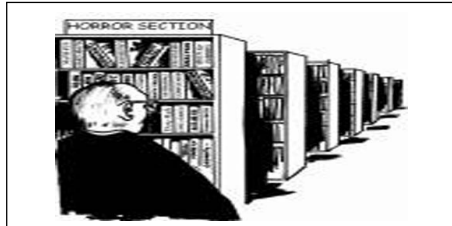
6 p.m., \$12; Brussels prints and tapestries for purchase, \$15-\$63; engraving and art restoration services available; basic adult ceramics Saturdays, \$30; children ceramics Saturdays, \$20; children's ceramics birthday parties; wood shop power tools classes by appointment, \$11; motorcycle classes Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m., six weeks, \$45; auto craft classes Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., \$25; winter vehicle checks by appointment, \$30. Info/sign up: 02 717-9629.

Sports and Fitness Ongoing, self-paced Run For Life program, patches awarded for 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 750 and 1000 miles; ongoing individual MEDEX training. Info: 02 717-9667.

NSA Youth Sports Coaches wanted for soccer and flag football; co-ed soccer for youth 5-15, \$30; co-ed flag football for youth 9-14, \$35; Bitty Booters Start Smart soccer for 3-4 year olds starts mid-Sept., sessions are Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 p.m. or Saturdays 9:30-10:30 a.m., \$30 includes soccer balls, shin guards, cones, jersey and parent manual, YS registration and current health assessment required. Info: 02 717-9649.

Child and Youth Services Registration ongoing for regular School Age Services and Middle School/Teen programs; back to school middle school dance Sept. 18, 7-10 p.m., NSA Three Star Lounge; Parent Advisory Council meeting, Sept. 23, 5-6 p.m., ACS Conference Room, NSA Bldg. 4. Info: 02 717-9665.

Library Open Tuesday-Thursday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday 12-7 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 12-5 p.m.; Story Time for 3-6 year olds every Wednesday now at 1:30 p.m. Info: 02 717-9705.



The NSA Library's summer reading program for children ended on Aug. 7. Twenty-seven children read at least ten books and received reading certificates. Philip Holmes, who read 80 books, was the winner in the Grade 1-2 group. The winner of the Grade 3-4 group was Will Jordan, who read 54 books. Erin Nieusma, the top reader in Grade 5-6, read 35 books and Christina Hoeft was the 7th grade winner with 23 books. In the Read-to-Me category, where parents read aloud to their preschool children, Andre Armstrong was the winner. During the summer his parents read 109 books to him! Congratulations to all the children who participated. If you haven't picked up your reading certificate and prize yet,

please stop by the NSA Library.

Consignment Shop Open Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Info: 02 717-9724.

NSA Food Court Open Monday-Wednesday 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Thursday 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Saturday-Sunday 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Info: 02 717-9789.

NSA Education Center University level math and English tutors needed; university level lecturers in management subjects needed for Advanced Skills Education Program; DANTES and CLEP exams available; free French Headstart Sept 7-24, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., NSA Ed Center; free Dutch Headstart Sept. 20-Oct. 1, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., NSA Ed Center. Info: 02 717-9704.

Installation Volunteer Coordinator If you have time on your hands, want to do something different and help the community at the same time, become a volunteer for one of our many DCA facilities, programs or special events. You can learn a new skill, help kids, work with computers or teach an art class and put it on your resume. Info: 02 717-9679.

High Holy Day Services - Services are held at the International Jewish Center in Brussels on Sept. 15 from 8 to 10 p.m.; Sept. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon and Sept. 16 from 12:30 p.m. onwards (buffet followed by Tashlich); Sept. 26 from 8 to 9:30 p.m.; Sept. 27 from 10:30 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. (including Yiskort Memorial); Sept. 27 at 7:15 p.m. Break-the-fast dinner. Info and mandatory advance reservations: Lisa at DSN: 423-4938 or 065 44-4938

Emergency Numbers in the Brussels area:

Medical Facilities:

NATO Health Clinic: 02/717-9501
(9500 for appointments)

NATO Dental Clinic: 02/717-9521
(9520 for appointments)

Gasthuisberg leuven Hospital: 016/332211
Saint Luc Hospital: 02/764-1111

Belgian Military Hospital: 02/264-4111

Others:

Civilian Police: 101*

Fire / Ambulance: 100*

*When dialing from cell phone (anywhere in Europe), dial 112 to reach the emergency service dispatch

Red Cross: 105

Burn Center: 02/268-6200

Poison Center: 070 245 245

NSA MP Desk: 02/717-9769

US Embassy Switchboard: 02/508-2111

Community Help Service (CHS): 02/648-4014 (24 hour help line); 02/647-6780 (counseling)

SHAPE and Chièvres Community Calendar

The U.S. Air Force Ball - "USAF in 2004—Building on the Heritage of 1944" - is scheduled for Oct. 9, at the SHAPE Officers' Club. Cocktails are at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Info: Maj Kurt Barry, DSN: 423-4025.

Tickets: SSgt Yvette Prioleau, DSN: 423-3834. **The U. S. Navy's Birthday Ball** is scheduled for Oct. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the SHAPE Officers' Club. Info: YNSC(SW/SCW) James E. Denihan 065 44-4445/4099

The Chièvres Family Organization is sponsoring a car wash on Sept. 11 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. next to the PX-tra on Chièvres Air Base with all the profits to benefit the Landstuhl Fisher House.

Prime Time Lounge, Bldg. 7 Daumerie Caserne, DSN 361-5540 or 06827.5540. Food Available Mon-Fri, Breakfast 6-9 a.m., Lunch 11 a.m.-2 p.m., and Dinner 5-8 p.m., Bar opens daily at 5 p.m.; *Country Night*, every second Saturday of the month at 8.30 p.m.; *pool tournament* Sept. 24 at 8.30 p.m. Info: DSN 361-5540.

Fitness Center, located in the Chievres CAC, New opening hours: Mon-Fri: 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sat/Sun: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and closed SHAPE holidays. The Fitness Center offers a wide range of cardiovascular exercise equipment to include lifecycles, treadmills, cross trainers, stair masters, steppers and rowing machines. Also available are free weights. We are looking for volunteers to work at the Chievres Library and Fitness Center. Interested, or know someone who might be interested?

Please contact: DSN 361-5589

Army Community Service Bldg. 318, SHAPE, DSN 423-5324. The "2004 Survey of Army Families V" is coming your way. If you receive a survey, please complete it. This survey is a key source of information for Army leadership. **EFMP BOWL:** Come for some fun at the Pizza Bowl on Saturday, Sept. 25 from 2 - 5 p.m. This event is reserved for families enrolled in EFMP.

Call or stop by ACS to register. The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is looking for Volunteers for their "Kids on the Block" Benelux Troupe. The Kids on the Block is an educational puppetry theatre. The puppets help children feel positive about themselves, accept individual differences and learn valuable personal skills. Committed volunteers from our community use the entertaining medium of puppetry to present educational programs for children all ages. The EFMP is in constant need for those committed volunteers to help keep this powerful tool alive. Info: DSN 423-7461. *Anger Management classes* are once a week on Tuesday from 9-10 a.m. info: DSN 423-5263. *Job Opportunities Briefing* is Every Wednesday morning from 9 a.m. to noon. The Job Opportunities Briefing assists in job search, career development and employment opportunities in the area. Pre-registration is required to attend the briefing. Info: DSN 423-4904. The *Outreach Program* is designed to give community members and newcomers the chance to meet with each other for communication, support, and assistance. The

office is located at the Hotel Le Maisières next to the American Lounge. The office is open M-F, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Info: DSN 423-7598. *Rendez-Vous with French* free classes for beginners scheduled Sept. 21, Oct. 19 and Nov. 23 from 9:30 a.m. until noon. To sign up, call DSN 366-6252 or DSN 423-5324.

BOSS A Single Service Member Organization Day is scheduled on Sept. 17 at the CAC on Chievres Airbase. Enjoy a day off with Barbeque, drinks, Karaoke and a variety of Sports. Info: IS1 James Brown, DSN 366-6272. The *BOSS Sumo Suits* are available for rent all year long. The rates are \$/• 50 a day for 1 set or \$/•75 a day for 2 sets (mats are not included). Info: SPC Alcantara, DSN 361-5562. *BOSS meetings* are scheduled every first and third Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at the SHAPE Community Activity Center. Next meeting is Sept. 16. The *BOSS webpage* is at www.80asg.army.mil/boss.htm; *BOSS email address* is 80asgboss@benelux.army.mil



Entertainment Center - *Salsa Dance*

Classes are every Monday at the IC Club from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. Info: DSN 423-4257/3312. *Children's Theater Classes* starting this fall. One class will be on Thursdays from 4-5 p.m. for kids ages 5-9 and a second class will be on Fridays from 4-5:30 p.m. for kids ages 9-15. Students over 15 may attend adult acting classes with a parent's permission.

Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage month with Live Latin Band at the SHAPE IC Club on Sept. 17 at 8.30 p.m., and at the Prime Time Lounge on Daumerie Caserne, Sept. 18 at 9 p.m. Info: Harry Geesaman, DSN: 361-5589.

SHAPE Trips and Tours going to Amsterdam, Sept. 11, Buckingham Palace Sept. 18, Comedy Club, Sept. 24 and London Weekend, Oct. 1-3. Info: DSN 423-3884.

The Chièvres Family Organization is sponsoring a car wash on Sept. 18 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. next to the PX-tra on Chièvres Air Base.

60th Anniversary - Upcoming commemorative ceremonies for the Liberation of Belgium: *Foy* (Bastogne) at the U.S. temporary cemetery, Sept. 10 at 2 p.m.; *Dizon* (Verviers) in presence of veterans of the 3rd AD, Sept. 11 at 3 p.m.; *Thimister-Clermont*, Sept. 11 all day starting at 10 a.m.; *Welkenraedt*, Sept 19, time to be confirmed; *Bastogne* with large return of 101st AB veterans, Sept 20, time to be confirmed. Info: DSN 361-5419.

Army previews new personnel software

By Rick Haverinen

The Dept. of Defense is looking to commercially-available software to streamline processing of personnel transactions and record keeping for military personnel.

Lois Hickey, Director of Army Personnel Transformation Directorate, brought a team of experts to SHAPE Aug. 17 to demonstrate the program.

"We're here to provide information about transformation," Hickey said, "and some of the programs that we're looking at which would change how you do personnel. We're also here to demonstrate the capability of the software that the Dept. of Defense will be moving to in the future for their Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System."

DOD noticed that PeopleSoft had computer programs sitting right out in the open on the corporate shelf that probably would do everything the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps needed for managing personnel.

Hickey found some doubters when she started talking about using readily-available management software to solve personnel problems in the U.S. military.

"What we wanted to do is bring out the software and show the capability directly out of the box, without any customizations, that it can in fact handle what the military does," Hickey said.

The computer running the management software and accessing the database sits on a Web server. Users, including commanders, mission planners, personnel specialists and Pfc. Sally Smith, access the program using a Web browser and a log-on procedure. The information flow is encrypted.

The jargon of the program is definitely civilian. When a Soldier is assigned to a unit, the program says he or she has been "hired."

One of Hickey's demonstrations shows how the software could be used by the mission planner looking for a soldier who knows how to run a water treatment plant. The software database will eventually include knowledge and skills for every person in uniform throughout the DOD. The mission planner searches the database and finds three candidates who are trained water treatment plant operators. Using other selection factors input by the mission planner, the program returns the name of

only one of the three. It turns out this person is a reservist. The software has the ability to start the process in motion to change the water treatment plant operator's status to active duty, and to automatically interface with the finance database to make all pay adjustments. The reservist would get a checklist generated by the program listing everything he needed to do to be activated, such as updating power of attorney or emergency notification records.

The reservist can log onto the system to make sure his pay is correct or to check off items on the "to do" list as he or she completes them.

"The software will do what we need it to do," Hickey said. "The bigger issue for the Army is looking at how they do business and from a transformation standpoint, changing. How we deploy our troops is changing, how we're restructured is changing. So we need to support how we do personnel support how our new structure's going to be. We're currently looking at what done personnel-battlefield? Who should be wise on the should be doing it? How many people do we think it will take? So from the bottom to the top, we will be looking at how personnel support is provided."

Hickey said they are looking at piloting the proposed new personnel service re-design in the Army with 101st Airborne Div. Discussions are occurring now to get FORSCOM's agreement to pilot it starting in November. This pilot will allow a shake down of the proposed re-design and provide an opportunity to fine tune the concept prior to the implementation of the new software.

By using the new program, the person in uniform will have much more ability to service his or her own personnel issues online.



Lois Hickey

"Another thing (the software) will do is put all of the Dept. of Defense military personnel in one centralized database," Hickey said. "Right now, for instance, if you activate an Army Guard person, they get moved from the Guard system and then they have to be input into the current active Army system, and they also have to be input into the finance pay system to reflect they are now active. And one of the pay problems right now is they don't get input into the pay system, or something gets input incorrectly in the process. So we believe that (the new system will) decrease the number of pay issues."

Hickey said even if a computer program is perfect, the system will fail if someone inputs data incorrectly, or fails to input the data.

"So you've got a combination of things," Hickey said. "The system will do it, but you've just got to make sure people are following the process and procedures in inputting the data and that they do it. So between those two, I think a lot of pay problems that they're having right now are going to be eliminated. Because once you input a transaction, it automatically goes into the pay system. There's no real human intervention that's required."

Hickey said the system would greatly help senior leaders account for how many people they have in one place at one time. With simple search commands, they can see how many riflemen, cartographers or cooks are at Fort Meade, for instance.

"So from the senior leadership perspective, a lot of the information right now resides in numerous systems that they have to try to integrate to get answers," Hickey said. "Plus, not all those numerous systems have the same data recorded the same way. So that's going to help a lot. It's also going to enable more extensive cross-servicing across the services."

Fielding of the new system is already looming on the horizon. Hickey said the Army should have the system up and running beginning with the Reserve component in first or second Quarter FY 05, and all DOD military services should be using the system about two years from then.

"A lot of private sector companies have done this," Hickey said. "A lot of civilian agencies have done it. But doing this for the Dept. of Defense will be the largest implementation out there, when we do it. And I said, when we do it, because we can do it."

254th BSB Local Calendar

Mail Room – The Schinnen Mail Room will now be open for mail distribution from noon-1 p.m., Monday-Friday, to support postal patrons during lunchtime. This initiative in customer service does not change the regular posted mail hours of Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 4-5 p.m.; Thursday, 3-5 p.m. Info: Jimmy Carter at DSN 360-7410.

Alliance Players - Auditions for "The Diary of Anne Frank" will take place Sept. 12 and 13. For "Frankenstein the Panto" auditions are scheduled for Sept. 16 and 22.

Emergency number Essent changed - Essent has changed the telephone number for customers to call in case of failure with electricity or gas to 0800-9009 (manned 24 hrs a day).

Fire Prevention at Home - Unattended cooking is still a major cause of fires in housing. This kind of fire can become uncontrollable if it can spread too easily. One of the first things that can contribute to the spread of a cooking fire is the oven hood filter. An oven hood filter saturated with grease will easily ignite if exposed to a fire. There-

fore, it is strongly recommended that you replace or clean your oven hood filter at least once a year. People living in government leased quarters can get new oven hood filters through the self-help program. Info: Rob Walraven, DSN 360-7230 or civ 046-443-7230.

Recall batteries 15-inch PowerBook G4 - Apple Computers has issued a warning/recall on batteries of the 15-inch PowerBook G4. The recalled batteries have the Model Number: A1045 and serial numbers that begin with: HQ404, HQ405, HQ406, HQ407, or HQ408. Batteries with the affected serial numbers contain cells that were manufactured by LG Chem, Ltd. of South Korea during the last week of December 2003 only. Check if you have any of these models in your unit and if so go to <https://depot.info.apple.com/batteryexchange/index.html> to get them replaced.

Dutch Railways (NS) - Due to recent operating changes within the Dutch Railways (NS), customers requiring domestic train tickets (within The Netherlands) will be required to make their own arrangements either from a NS touch-screen machine located at most train sta-

tions or directly at a train station ticket sales office. International train tickets (must contain travel to or via Germany) may be ordered through the local CTO, however a minimum of 7 working days will be required as the tickets need to be ordered and mailed to the CTO. If an international train ticket is required within 7 days of departure the traveler will be required to purchase the ticket from an NS touch-screen machine located at most train stations or directly at a train station tickets sales office.

Veterans' Administrator Briefing - Mr. Kevin Esslinger, a representative of the US Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) will conduct a briefing to members of the Tri-Border community Sept. 17, 12:30-3:30 p.m. at the Command Conference Room, Bldg. 8 (Headquarters) on Schinnen. Personnel planning to attend need to contact Ron Holland at DSN 360-7320 or civ 046-443-7320 by Sept. 13 to reserve a seat.

Warning for handy users - If you receive a message on your handy "call received in absence" with the number +49137799090269 or +4917233223333, don't call back!! These numbers

are "trap numbers." Your call will be on hold for an hour and longer and you won't be able to interrupt.

Barber & Beauty Shop Move - The Schinnen Barber and Beauty Shop will be closed until Sept. 18 for facility renovations. During this time, the facilities will be open Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. in the Teen Center.

AFNORTH International School - Sept. 13 : No school – Teacher in-service day. Sept. 18 : 10 a.m. First high school home football game: AIS vs. SHAPE; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. AIS Country Fair – Fun, food and entertainment in and around the AIS Cafeteria during the football game. Sept. 25: 10 a.m. High school homecoming and football: AIS vs ROTA.



Geilenkirchen

Foggy Fields Bazaar - The American Women of Geilenkirchen will be hosting their annual Foggy Fields Bazaar Nov. 12-14 in Hangar 4 at GK NATO Base. Open to all NATO and US ID card holders Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Benelux Meteor Deadline and Publication Dates

Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date
Sept. 13	Sept. 24	Oct. 8	Oct. 22	Nov. 8	Nov. 19	Dec. 6	Dec. 17
Sept. 27	Oct. 8	Oct. 25	Nov. 5	Nov. 22	Dec. 3	Jan. 3	Jan. 14

About Us



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Policy

- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.
- Articles in plain text and separate photographic files may be submitted but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor. All submissions should be in electronic form as plain text. We cannot process information in documents such as PowerPoint, Excel or Acrobat.
- Event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms and include a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. To save space, we cannot reproduce prepared flyers in the *Meteor*.

Advertising

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Commanders

Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski 80th Area Support Group
Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson 254th Base Support Battalion
Lt. Col. Jon M. Davis Jr. NATO Support Activity

Public Affairs Officers and personnel

Marie-Lise Baneton 80th Area Support Group
Rick Haverinen Editor
Tom Larscheid Writer
Tim Biggs/Cis Spook.....Lay out

Get to know your local community

Benelux? Say what?

Some acronyms have become such an integral part of the day-to-day language that we don't even think about their significance. The Benelux is a customs union made of Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg, so it makes sense to use it particularly to those of us working for the 80th Area Support Group.

The name is formed from the beginning of each country's name, and was created for the Benelux Economic Union, a convention that was signed in 1944 to promote the free movement of workers, capital, services, and goods in the region.

The union was not fully established until 1958 but was the foundation of what has become the European Union (EU) that later found a home in Brussels.

Do you know?

Belgium ranks 6th in importance among world conference cities.

Brussels, capital of the EU, is also the European headquarters to over 1,000 international companies, including 700 from the United States.

The Netherlands and Holland is not one and the same country.

The Netherlands is in a constant battle with the sea to save its land and uses 1,500 miles of dikes to protect 25 percent of the land that is below sea level.

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is slightly smaller than Rhode Island.

Luxembourg is the only Grand Duchy in the world.

The Benelux has its own flag that is a combination of the flags and arms of the three countries. The flag was designed by a Dutch flag manufacturer around 1957 but never became popular.



Belgium, a kingdom no bigger than Maryland, is a small, highly developed and densely populated country (10 million of inhabitants) at the cross-roads of Western Europe. Belgium is one of the founding members of the European Community, and its capital, Brussels, is also the capital of the European Union and NATO. It is a federal state, with

three relatively autonomous regions: Flanders in the north, where the language is Dutch ("Flemish") is a flatland criss-crossed by canals and great art cities like Antwerp, Bruges and Ghent. To the south in Wallonia, where the language is French, you will find the rolling hills of the Ardennes, numerous castles, and the cities of Liège, Mons, Namur, and Tournai. The capital city of Belgium, Brussels, is centrally located and officially bilingual.

The Belgian cuisine which is related to the French one, but with some very distinctive touches, offers many dishes worth trying. The most famous Belgian food is the

"French" fries which, according to legend, were invented in Belgium, not



One of Belgium's national sports

France, and which are better here than in any other place in world!

Another well-known specialty is Belgian chocolate which is sold all over the world and, the Belgian beer:

there are about 130 breweries in Belgium brewing over 400 different types of beer, which are all served in their own specially made glasses. Beer, for Belgians, is about as important as wine is for the French. It is a pity that the international marketing is not better developed, because everybody drinks Dutch, Danish or German beers, whereas the Belgian ones (which are much richer in variety and taste) are known only by the real beer lovers. Recently, though, Belgian specialty beers have become more and more popular, not only in the neighboring France, Holland and UK, but even in the USA.

The currency used in Belgium is the Euro.



The Kingdom of the Netherlands has a population of over 15 million people and is slightly less than twice the size of New Jersey. The country is divided into 12 provinces of which two, 'North Holland' (capital city Haarlem) and 'South Holland' (capital city The Hague), are referred to as "Holland". There is often confusion about the name Holland. Some people call the Netherlands Holland, but it is not the same. To say to someone from Limburg or Friesland that he or she is from Holland, is considered an insult. They consider themselves to be from the Netherlands. They even have their own language. The Netherlands is the country of

flowers. Bulbs and more bulbs, flower parades and markets castle gardens and flower auctions can be found around every corner. Very familiar sights are the windmills, which are essential in regulating the water level as one quarter of the country is below the sea level. Bicycles are also very popular here mainly because the country is flat. Nearly everyone has one, and some



Amsterdam is a multi-cultural city

people even have two. A Dutchman without a bike is like a fish without water! Holland is the ultimate bicycling country.

Dutch is the national language of the Netherlands but the people of the province of Friesland also

speak Fries, an official language that is only spoken in this province. However, English is spoken by almost everyone. On the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, islands which are a part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and in the former Dutch colony of Surinam, Dutch is used in government institutions and in schools. Dutch was also the basis for Afrikaans, the language spoken in South Africa.

When in The Netherlands, eat like the Dutch. The daily eating pattern of the Dutch is breakfast, lunch and dinner with in between, the Dutch cup of coffee at 10:30 a.m. followed by tea at 3 p.m. and the 'borrel', which generally is a glass of beer, a nip of Dutch gin, a glass of wine or sherry at 5 p.m. sharp.

An 'uitsmijter' will satisfy your hunger pangs. It consists of bread with slices of cheese or meat, topped with fried eggs. In the winter a simple order of Dutch pea soup (erwtensoup) will satisfy your

hunger and re-charge your batteries. Restaurants representing Holland's multicultural backgrounds have mushroomed all over, ranging from French to Indonesian to Thai to Pakistani. However, in Dutch homes old traditions die hard and the simple, substantial meals of potatoes, fresh vegetables, meat, chicken, fish or salad, followed by a milk-based dessert, are still favorites. If you ask a Dutch man or woman what is being served for dinner, he or she will first mention the vegetable being served. The meat, fish or chicken takes second place. After dinner, the Dutch enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. In fact, if you are invited to someone's home after dinner, you'll first be served coffee or tea with a piece of cake or pie. This is followed by a drink. Visiting friends and family in each other's homes is part of traditional, fine Dutch hospitality.

The official currency is the Euro.



The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, a constitutional monarchy, is an independent sovereign state, tucked between Belgium, France and Germany. It is the sixth-smallest country and the only Grand Duchy in the world. Although the country is called "Grand Duchy of Luxembourg", it is often referred to as just "Luxembourg", the name of the capital city which in turn is sometimes referred to as Luxembourg-Ville, or Luxembourg City to make the distinction.

The country is 51 miles long and 32 miles wide, encompassing an area of 999 square miles with a population of 451 600.

Luxembourg plays a major role as a prominent international financial centre. Numerous banks and important investment trusts have settled in the capital, as the fiscal legislation, which dates back to 1929, favors Banks and Holding Companies. Luxembourg is not a tax free country. All Luxembourg residents do pay tax, and there is VAT on all items sold in Luxembourg. Indirect taxes, however, (eg taxes on goods sold in shops) have in the past tended to be lower than in neighboring countries, which may have led to our country acquiring the "tax-free" reputation. Its eco-

nomie structure and its geographical position have necessarily led Luxembourg into a close co-operation with other countries, and particularly with Belgium since 1921, and with Belgium and the Netherlands since the second World War, with the creation of the Benelux.

'Lëtzebuergesch' is the everyday spoken language of the people. This former Mosel-Frankish dialect is the national language since 1984, while both French and German remain the official languages.

'Lëtzebuergesch' or Luxembourgish is taught in schools and in language courses mostly addressed to the resident foreigners.

Luxembourg is known for its Moselle white wine and many tour-



Luxembourg City

ists won't be missing a visit to the American Military Cemetery in Hamm outside Luxembourg-City where General George S. Patton is buried with 5076 soldiers of the Third Army who fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

The currency used in Luxembourg is the Euro.

Klip n' Keep

Common conversion charts

Measurements

3,5 OZ	100 grams
16 OZ	454 grams
36 OZ	1 kilogram
1 Pint	473 milliliters
1 Quart	946 milliliters
1.056 Quart	1 liter
1 Gallon	3.8 liters
2.2 LBS	1 kilogram
110 LBS	50 kilograms
150 LBS	68 kilograms
200 LB	91 kilograms

Length

1 inch	2.54 centimeters
1 foot	0.3 meters
1 yard	0.9 meters
3.3 feet or 39 inches	1 meter
0.6 miles	1 kilometer
1 mile	1.6 kilometer
3 miles	5 kilometer

Thermometer

-12 C	10 F
- 4 C	19 F
0 C	32 F
10 C	50 F
16 C	61 F
25 C	77 F
30 C	86 F
40 C	104 F
100 C	212 F

Men's sizes

Pants		Shirts		Shoes	
EUR	US	EUR	US	EUR	US
46	36	36	14	40	7
48	38	37	14½	41	8
50	40	38	15	42	9
52	42	39	15½	43	10
54	44	40	16	44	11

Women's sizes

Blouses/dresses		Shoes	
EUR	US	EUR	US
36	8	35	4
38	10	36	5
40	12	37	6
42	14	38	7
44	16	39	8
46	18	40	9
48	20	41	10

Children's size

Clothing		Shoes	
EUR	US	EUR	US
92	2	20	2 (infant)
95	3	21	3
104	4	22	4
110	5	23	5
116	6	24	6
122	7	25	7
128	8	26	8
134	10	27	9
140	12	28	10
146	14	29	11
152	16	30	12
158	18	31	13
164	20	32	14
170	22	33	15
176	24		